

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT)

ARA PASS AMBASSADOR LUCEY

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: ENRG, MX
SUBJECT: PRESS LINKS GAS PRICE AND UNDOCUMENTED WORKER
ISSUES

REF: (A) MEXICO 00086 (NOTAL), (B) 77 STATE 310213 (NOTAL)

1. EXCELSIOR CONTINUES TO FEATURE ALLEGATIONS, BASED ON
ALLEGED STATEMENT BY CHICANO OFFICIAL FRANK SHAEFFER-
CORONA (REFTEL A), THAT USG HAS LINKED ACCEPTANCE OF
MEXICAN GAS PRICE TO GOM SUPPORT FOR CARTER PROGRAM ON
UNDOCUMENTED WORKERS. IN A FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE JAN 5,
EXCELSIOR QUOTES ORIT SEC GEN JUAN JOSE DEL PINO (VENE-
ZUELAN NATIONAL) AS STATING THAT IT IS A "GROSERIA"
THAT THE U.S. CONDITIONS ITS PURCHASES OF MEXICAN GAS
TO THE GOM APPROVAL OF THE CARTER PLAN ON UNDOCUMENTEDS
"WHO HAVE BEEN TREATED IN A BESTIAL AND DISCRIMINATORY
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MANNER IN THE NEIGHBORING COUNTRY." (NOTE: DEL PINO
OBVIOUSLY ACCEPTED EARLIER EXCELSIOR STORY AS ACCURATE.)

2. ACCORDING TO EXCELSIOR VERSION OF DEL PINO'S STATE-
MENT, THE PRESIDENT'S LATIN AMERICAN POLICY--EXCEPT FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS WHERE THERE HAVE BEEN POSITIVE EFFECTS--CAN
IN NO WAY BE DISOYMV ISHED FROM THE POLICY OF PREVIOUS

ADMINISTRATIONS. IN THE ECONOMIC AREA, HE REPORTEDLY ADDED, THE U.S. FOLLOWS THE SAME LINE OF FAVORING ITS OWN INTERESTS. HE SAID THAT ORIT, #7*94.3\$?6 5#3 .-'94 LABOR ORGANIZATIONS IN LA COUNTRIES, CONDEMNS THE TREATMENT WHICH MEXICAN "BRACEROS" RECEIVE IN THE U.S. IT ALSO SUPPORTS THE POLICY OF SOME LA COUNTRIES AND GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE NATIONALIZED THEIR PRINCIPAL RESOURCES. ACCORDING TO EXCELSIOR STORY, DEL PINO SAID THERE IS NO REASON FOR THE U.S. TO LINK THE PRICE OF GAS WITH THE UNDOCUMENTED QUESTION. QUIT FAVORS THE GOVERNMENTS OF BOTH COUNTRIES SEEKING A SOLUTION FAVORABLE TO THE WORKERS WHO ARE NOT DELINQUENTS BUT RATHER PERSONS WHO GO TO OFFER THEIR SERVICES.

3. DEL PINO REJECTED THE IDEA THAT THE AFL-CIO HAS EXERTED PRESSURE IN FAVOR OF ANTI-BRACERO LAWS, COMMENTING THAT "THE AFL-CIO HAS ADOPTED RESOLUTIONS IN WHICH IT COUNSELS THAT THE PROBLEM OF BRACEROS SHOULD BE TREATED BY BOTH COUNTRIES; IT HAS CONDEMNED THE BAD TREATMENT OF UNDOCUMENTEDS AND INDICATED THAT THERE SHOULD BE AN UNDERSTANDING."

4. EXCELSIOR ALSO CARRIES A CARTOON ON THE SUBJECT IN WHICH A MEXICAN OFFICIAL, IN ANSWER TO A REPORTER'S QUESTION ABOUT OFFICIAL MEXICAN REACTION TO LINKAGE OF GAS PRICE AND UNDOCUMENTEDS, RESPONDS THAT MEXICAN POSITION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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IS VERY PRECISE. WHEN PRESSED FOR FURTHER DEFINITION BY THE REPORTER, OFFICIAL RESPONDS THAT "YOU WILL HAVE TO ASK THE PRESIDENT DIRECTLY FOR THE MEXICAN POSITION."

5. COMMENT: MEDIA LINKAGE OF ALLEGATION RE USG CONDITIONING ACCEPTANCE OF MEXICAN GAS PRICE TO MEXICAN SUPPORT FOR CARTER UNDOCUMENTED PROGRAM IS DISTURBING DEVELOPMENT. AT APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY, IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO CLARIFY THAT USG AT NO TIME HAS IN ANY WAY LINKED OR CONDITIONED U.S. ACCEPTANCE OF MEXICAN GAS PRICE TO GOM SUPPORT OF UNDOCUMENTED WORKER PROGRAM. RECENT MEXICO CITY PRESS ARTICLES (REF A) STATING THAT VICE PRESIDENT MONDALE WILL HIGHLIGHT GAS QUESTION ON HIS VISIT TO MEXICO COULD ALSO STIMULATE EXISTING PRESS INCLINATION TO LINK GAS AND UNDOCUMENTED ISSUES.

6. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE INFORMATION REGARDING IDENTITY OF AND POSITION HELD BY FRANK SHAEFFER-CORONA, CITED EXCELSIOR JAN 3 STORY BY FAUSTO FERNANDEZ PONTE AS SOURCE OF CHARGE RE USG LINKAGE OF GAS PRICE AND UNDOCUMENTED ISSUES. AS MENTIONED REFTEL A, EXCELSIOR CORRESPONDENT DESCRIBES HIM AS "ONLY CHICANO WHO OCCUPIES AN ELECTED POSITION IN

U.S. CAPITAL." CALDERHEAD

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